

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the newly cited reference to White et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,152). Claims 2, 3 and 7-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12-20 were allowed. Applicant and applicant's attorney acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 12-20 and the indication of allowability concerning claims 2, 3 and 7-11.

In order to expedite issuance of his patent, applicant has elected to accept the allowed and allowable claims. Thus base claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 7, and claim 7 has been canceled. In view of the amendments made to base claim 1, dependent claims 3 and 8-10 have been amended to conform to amended claim 1. Rejected claims 5-6 have been canceled.

In view of the amendments made herein, claims 1-4 and 8-20 are currently pending. Independent claim 1 has been placed in allowable form by incorporating therein the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 7. Dependent claims 2-4 and 8-11 depend, either directly or indirectly, on allowable

base claim 1 and are therefore likewise allowable. Claims 12-20 stand allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made herein do raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration. To the contrary, the amendments consist of amending base claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 7 and amending dependent claims 3 and 8-10 to conform to amended base claim 1. Thus the present amendment does, on its face, place the application in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner determines that something further need be done to place the application in allowable form, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney whereupon any outstanding matter will be promptly attended to.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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